

TRUMBULL BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION
MINUTES – April 26, 2011

PRESENT: Doug Carey, Sharon Altieri, Laura Ponzio, Liz Nugent, Patricia Pavia, Mildred Krisak, Debi Miller

The meeting of the Trumbull Beautification Commission was called to order at 6:58 p.m. by D. Carey. Attendance was noted and a quorum was had.

READING AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the March 22, 2011 meeting were discussed. D. Miller noted that a change should be made. L. Ponzio will ask the Trumbull Community Women about making a small donation for leaf bags, not the Trumbull Women's Group. L. Nugent motioned that the minutes of the March 22, 2011 meeting be accepted as presented. P. Pavia seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: The Financial Report was reviewed. There is a balance of \$2,295.40 in the general account. S. Altieri motioned to accept the Financial Report. M. Krisak seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

MEMBERSHIP: Jeanmarie Montabana is no longer interested in joining the Commission.

RAMP UPDATE: The State DOT notified the Ganim Law Firm that both of their signs located at Merritt Pkwy Exit 48 were non-compliant and must be replaced or removed. In an effort to ensure uniformity of signage, the State DOT then transferred all ramp permits to the Trumbull Beautification Commission. Ganim was informed of the transfer of the permit to the TBC. D. Carey reiterated to the Ganim Law Firm the need to be in compliance. The Ganim Law Firm disagreed with the interpretation of the regulations and requested a meeting with the First Selectman and D. Carey to discuss their concerns.

D. Carey and P. Pavia met with First Selectman Tim Herbst and Ray Ganim and George Ganim Sr. After reviewing both the State's and the TBC regulations, it was agreed that two new signs would be ordered to replace the non-compliant signs. First Selectman Herbst, in a conciliatory effort, offered the Ganim's a "Spot" on Town property where one of their non-compliant signs could be used. The only available location was Madison Ave/Chestnut Hill. The Ganim Law Firm agreed to be a sponsor of this third location. It was also agreed, upon need of replacement, that sign would be replaced with a conforming sign.

At the April 26 meeting, the TBC discussed this matter at length. The commission voiced its concerns over this exception becoming a precedent setting decision. A majority vote reflected that the TBC would strongly oppose any future exceptions.

P. Pavia noted that the signs Spotnick have placed in their spot are in non-compliance. She suggested that the Commission should inform him that when the sign is damaged and needs to be replaced that they will need to replace it with a sign that conforms.

D. Carey suggested sending out a letter to sponsors reminding them that all signs place need to be in compliance and that any signs not currently in-compliance will need to be replaced with the proper signs when the current sign is damaged and needs replacing.

D. Carey also mentioned that Vazzy's has ordered a sign to replace the one that was damaged during a winter storm. The Commission will also look into whether the new Home Depot in Trumbull would be interested in sponsoring a spot.

BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS: P. Pavia suggested that the Trumbull Home Depot should be nominated for a Beautification Award due to the landscaping work they have done.

MAIL: D. Carey said that some of the Commission's mail had been placed in the Nature Center's mailbox in Town Hall by mistake. Some of the mail was from early last year and included two renewal checks from ramp sponsors. D. Carey has already returned the checks to the appropriate sponsors.

Two of the other pieces of mail were Beautification Award nominations. Avalon Gates and 100 Booth Hill Road were both nominated.

TIDY UP TRUMBULL: L. Ponzio said that over one hundred people volunteered on the original day. The Commission members cleaned one of the town's commuter lots and noticed there was a large amount of garbage collecting behind one of the fences. Due to the area's proximity to the highway, a steep slope, and the growth of poison ivy, however, the members were unable to clean it up. The state of Connecticut said that the Commission could plant low growing plants along the fence to help block the view and D. Carey mentioned possibly looking into finding a way to collect the garbage.

WEBSITE: D. Carey suggested taking pictures of the various projects the Commission has worked on and posting them on the Town website for residents to view. Projects that may be photographed include the Vietnam War Memorial, the Town Hall marquee, and an example of one of the town ramps.

LEAF BAGS: T. Herbst has not responded to a letter D. Carey sent him regarding the lead bag project yet.

WOMEN IN THE MILITARY MEMORIAL: P. Pavia spoke with T. Herbst regarding a spot for the proposed Memorial. T. Herbst said that the land located at the intersection of Churchill Road and Old Churchill Road is town owned. P. Pavia suggested meeting with T. Herbst to find out how the Commission could go about acquiring the land for the Memorial.

M. Krisak handed out copies of an article she found concerning a housing project for female Veterans in Connecticut. She suggested that the author of the article, Shalini Madaras, may be able to help with the Memorial and that she may want to attend a meeting with T. Herbst about it.

D. Carey suggested that they may want to speak with T. Herbst about the park and D. Miller suggested waiting until the Commission had more concrete plans before inviting S. Madaras to attend. P. Pavia suggested waiting until the Commission has a location set for the park before involving anyone else.

D. Miller suggested that the Memorial should be placed in one of the town's parks because the location at Churchill/Old Churchill is a small island and can be tough to walk to. P. Pavia said that she liked the location because of its proximity to Town Hall.

It was mentioned that the location at Churchill/Old Churchill has a small stream that runs through it, likely from drain run-off. The Commission will look into whether the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission will need to be involved with acquiring that piece of land.

P. Pavia will look into whether the project could receive funding from the United States Military. She also suggested that the Commission should think about a design soon and consult with an architect concerning the design and land.

S. Altieri suggested the Commission research how many female Veterans from Trumbull there have been throughout history and asked whether the Memorial will be for all female Veterans or only the ones from Trumbull. P. Pavia said it should be for all female Veterans regardless of whether they are from Trumbull or not. She said that if the Commission could identify female Veterans from Trumbull then the Memorial can have something that honors them specifically.

S. Altieri mentioned that there's a piece of land located on White Plains Road that could be used for the Memorial. The Commission would need to go through the state to acquire it because it's state owned, but the piece of land is bigger than the one located at Churchill/Old Churchill.

D. Carey suggested the formation of a sub-Committee to head the project. P. Pavia and M. Krisak will be the members for the Beautification Commission, while L. Ponzio will act as a representative for the Trumbull Community Women, who support the idea.

TRUMBULL DAYLILES: P. Pavia has removed some of the Lilies planted at the mailbox outside Town Hall. She suggested that Commission members could care for the Lilies at home until a suitable place could be found to plant them. She will check to see which ones are Trumbull 200 Daylilies and which are Companion Daylilies before handing them out to members.

TOWN HALL MARQUEE: L. Ponzio said she will check to see why the Town Hall marquee has not had any events advertised on it in a while.

L. Nugent motioned that the meeting be adjourned. L. Ponzio seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Lusebrink, Clerk

